

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00288 071737Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 BIB-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OES-06 HEW-04 SAJ-01 /087 W
-----071918Z 106064 /46

R 071541Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2841
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0288

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, UR
SUBJECT: MOSCOW DISSIDENTS FORM WORKING GROUP ON SOVIET
PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICES

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 146 (B) MOSCOW 213

1. SUMMARY. A NEW GROUP TO STUDY AND REPORT ON SOVIET
PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE HAS JUST BEEN FORMED. IT WILL RECEIVE
MOST OF ITS SUPPORT FROM MOSCOW-BASED "HUMAN RIGHTS"
DISSIDENTS, AND IS BEING FORMED WITH AN EYE TO THE BELGRADE
CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE. WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL HAVE MUCH EFFECT
IN CHANGING THE MORE REPELLENT ASPECTS OF SOVIET PSYCHIATRY,
BUT IT MAY WELL SECURE ADDITIONAL PUBLICITY FOR THEM IN THE
WEST. IF IT IS SUCCESSFUL, IT WILL PROBABLY PROVOKE
A REACTION FROM THE AUTHORITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. A "WORKING GROUP ON PSYCHIATRY" HAS BEEN FORMED IN MOSCOW.
ITS FORMATION WAS ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL A)
BUT ATTRACTED LITTLE INTEREST FROM AMONG THE WESTERN
CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT. THE GROUP HAS FOUR FULL MEMBERS:
MESSRS. BAKHMIN AND SIRIY, MISS IRA KAPLUN AND ONE OTHER.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00288 071737Z

NONE OF THESE PEOPLE HAS RECENTLY BEEN PROMINENT IN DISSIDENT
AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH ALL HAVE CLOSE PERSONAL TIES TO THE
MOSCOW DISSIDENT MOVEMENT. THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP
APPARENTLY HAD THE IDEA TO FORM THE GROUP, THE MEMBERS OF
WHICH WERE CHOSEN PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT WELL KNOWN
IN THE WEST.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE FULL MEMBERS, THERE ARE THREE "CONSULTANTS". GENERAL GRIGORENKSITS BOTH AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CSCE OBSERVATION GROUP AND AS PRINCIPAL "EXPERT" ON THE SEAMIER ASPECTS OF SOVIET PSYCHIATRY. SOFIYA KALLISTRATOVA, THE SEMI-RETIRED LAWYER WHO HAS DEFENDED A SERIES OF DISSIDENTS IN THEIR TRIALS, IS THE NEW GROUP'S LEGAL CONSULTANT, AND THERE IS ONE PRACTICING PSYCHIATRIST (WHO HAS REFUSED, FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS, TO GIVE HIS NAME) WHO WILL ADVISE ON THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF SOVIET PSYCHIATRY.

4. FINALLY THERE ARE TO BE CORRESPONDING MEMBERS WHO LIVE ABROAD. THESE SO FAR INCLUDE PLYUSHCH, GORBANYEVSKAYA, FAYNBERG, VOYKHANSKAYA AND BUKOVSKIY FROM AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE HAD PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF SOVIET MENTAL ASYLUMS. THERE IS ONE WESTERN PSYCHIATRIST WHO HAS SO FAR AGREED TO JOIN AS A CORRESPONDING MEMBER AND THE GROUP IS HOPEFUL OF RECRUITING OTHER WESTERN PSYCHIATRISTS AS WELL.

5. THE BRIEF OF THE WORKING GROUP INCLUDES THE SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF PSYCHIATRY IN THE USSR. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE GROUP HOPES TO PROVIDE AS UNBIASED AND FACTUAL REPORTING AS IS POSSIBLE ON SOVIET PSYCHIATRY. GIVEN ITS MAKEUP, HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GROUP WILL BE APPROACHING SOVIET PSYCHIATRY FROM A PARTICULAR POINT OF VIEW. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE GROUP WAS FORMED WITH THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE CLEARLY IN MIND. ITS MEMBERS HOPE TO HAVE SOME REPORTS DONE IN TIME FOR THE CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER THEM.

6. COMMENT: THE WORKING GROUP IS OSTENSIBLY INTERESTED ONLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00288 071737Z

IN PREPARING REPORTS OF ABUSES IN PSYCHIATRY AND IN ATTEMPTING TO SECURE PUBLICITY IN THE WEST FOR THEM. THE ORGANIZERS CLEARLY HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE GROUP WILL MAKE THE AUTHORITIES MORE RELUCTANT TO SANCTION THE CONFINEMENT OF DISSIDENTS IN PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS AND TO SANCTION THE OTHER ABUSES OF PSYCHIATRY THAT HAVE BECOME COMMON IN RECENT YEARS. WE DOUBT THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE GROUP WILL ITSELF HAVE THIS EFFECT, ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIAL WESTERN PUBLICITY FOR ANY NEW ABUSES OF PSYCHIATRY THAT THE GROUP MAY UNCOVER COULD HAVE AN EFFECT. WE DOUBT THAT THE AUTHORITIES WILL MOVE ACTIVELY AGAINST THE GROUP UNLESS AND UNTIL IT HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING FURTHER ATTENTION IN THE WEST TO SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC ABUSES.

7. THE SOVIETS ARE CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT THE REPUTATION WHICH SOVIET FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY ENJOYS IN THE WEST. REFTEL B DESCRIBES A RECENT ATTEMPT TO COUNTERACT THIS REPUTATION.
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MEDICAL SCIENCE, MENTAL HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, COMMITTEES, PSYCHIATRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW00288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770007-0597
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770172/aaaacknj.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 069430dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 146, 77 MOSCOW 213
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3645097
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOSCOW DISSIDENTS FORM WORKING GROUP ON SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICES
TAGS: PINT, UR, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/069430dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009